

ORGANIZE LEAGUE TO HELP NEGROES

Welfare Work to Be State-wide, but
Early Activities Will Be in
Northeast Section.

Augustus V. Hamburg President

By the adoption of bylaws and the election of officers the organization of the Negro Welfare League of New Jersey was effected yesterday afternoon at the Board of Trade rooms. Stated in the bylaws say, "to carry on welfare work for negroes and to improve their social, economic and civil condition in urban communities" throughout the state, the league will, it is believed, devote its initial efforts to the northeastern section, especially New Jersey, Hudson, Bergen and Passaic counties, where the recent influx of negroes from the South has been felt particularly.

More than 100 members of the new organization from this city, the Oranges, Montclair, Cranford, Westfield, Elizabeth, Jersey City, Morristown, Paterson, Passaic and other nearby places are present. Augustus V. Hamburg, former president of the Board of Trade, presided. Mr. Hamburg announced the receipt from "a good friend" of \$390 to help in the work.

Officers elected are: President, Mr. Hamburg; vice president, Rev. Gravina Bonfield, this city; second vice president, Dr. George B. Cannon, Jersey City; secretary, Rev. John D. Holden; treasurer, Arthur W. McDougall, both this city. Mr. Hamburg and Mr. McDougall will hold office only until the league is well on the way to the accomplishment of benevolent ends. A board management of seventy-five and an executive committee of twenty-one members were chosen. Indications that much of the league's early work will be done in Newark and vicinity is contained in the personnel of these bodies, one-third half in each case being from Essex County.

Any citizen of the state is eligible to membership. The executive committee, which will supervise the active work of the league, will meet monthly. The aims of the league are exemplified in the committees named in the bylaws: employment, training, and social welfare, etc.

MINUTES OF THE NEGRO WELFARE LEAGUE

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Six speakers addressed the League: Blewicker Marquette, secretary to the tenement committee of the Charity Organization Society of New York City; Mrs. Falconer, superintendent of Children's Aid Society; Dr. Bishop, president of the New England Missionary Convention; Wm. W. R. Valentine, principal of Redentown Industrial School; Mr. B. Pendleton and Rev. A. D. Baine of this city.

Mr. Marquette thought the city should devote its early efforts to the housing problem. Illness and death lurk in poorly constructed buildings. Dark rooms, inadequate sanitary facilities, the indiscriminate mixing of roomers and bad repairs are among the principal dangers. London is more careless with and does less for negro tenants than for whites. He know that the city authorities are so intent on getting good facilities for their colored men as for their white brothers.

Mr. Stabbishine discussed the new hospitals and employment bureaus for negroes, T. M. C. and I. C. facilities, care of colored men after release from jails, better regulation and scientific treatment of tuberculosis. Miss Pendleton lectured housing conditions.

Mr. Johnson told of his work and will on the part of the Negro. "We are not the poor and ignorant; some would like us to be. We have as many classes of intelligent citizens and as many who try to reach out and make something of life as any other race." Mr. Valentine told of the boy's work at the school.

To extend the scope of the League, a mass meeting will be held January 29th to the public.

Jacob D. Baldwin
S. C.